Losses Suffered by Khetri Copper Project

*148. SHRI PRAVATHANENI UPENDRA. Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Khetri Copper Project in Rajasthan is continuously running into losses;

(b) if so, the total accumulated losses suffered by the Khetri Copper Project since its installation; and

(c) the reasons for the continuing losses and whether Government have taken any measures to ensure that this important Plant gives better performance and shows profits?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (c) The Khetri Copper Project (KCC) of Hindustan Copper Ltd. has been incurring losses since its inception except in 1984-85. The net cumulative loss suffered by KCC till 31.3.86 is Rs. 143.67 crores. The main reasons for losses incurred by KCC are:—

(i) Low grade of ore;

(ii) Increase in input costs; and

(iii) shortage and high cost of power.

When KCC was set-up in response to strategic requirements Govt. were aware of the low grade of ore and the likely economic non-viability of its operations.

The important steps taken by the company to improve the working of KCC are:—

(i) Modernisation of smelter and refinery;

(ii) Improvement in capacity utilisation; and

(iii) Phasing out of uneconomic mines and developing new ones.

Three-tier monitoring system for supply of food

*149. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute a three-tier monitoring system to ensure proper and equitable supply of food stuff to check profiteering, and to process consumers' complaints; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Apart from strengthening and streamlining the monitoring arrangements for public distribution system and impressing upon the States/Uts to enforce the existing anti-profiteering laws such as Essential Commodities Act, Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, etc., the Central Government has enacted a comprehensive consumer protection law, namely, the Consumer protection Act, 1986 to provide for better protection to the consumers. The Act seeks to provide simple, speedy and inexpensive redressal to consumers' grievances. This Act envisages setting up of a three tier quasi-judicial machinery at the district, State and national level. The Act applies to all goods and services unless specifically exempted by the Central Government. It covers public, private joint and cooperative sectors. The Act also provides for setting up of Consumer Protection Councils at the Centre and the States, whose main object shall be to promote and protect the rights of the consumers as enshrined in the Act.

National water Grid System

*151. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received a suggestion from any